



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Masaki IJIMA et al.

Title: COAL DRYING METHOD AND EQUIPMENT, METHOD
FOR AGING REFORMED COAL AND AGED
REFORMED COAL, AND PROCESS AND SYSTEM
FOR PRODUCING REFORMED COAL

Appl. No.: 10/053,648

Filing Date: January 24, 2002

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 1764

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith is an English translation of the Japanese Office Action filed by the Applicants with an Information Disclosure Statement on March 6, 2003 in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The document is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The document is in English.

Applicants respectfully requests that the document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 filed on March 6, 2003 be returned in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date April 7, 2003

By Mary C. Hill Reg. # 41,545

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TRANSLATION CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the translation of the attached document, **Ref.: Notification of Reasons for Refusal**, was performed by a professional translator and is to the best of our knowledge and ability, a true and accurate translation of the original text delivered to Language Innovations, LLC by our client, **Foley & Lardner**. The original document was translated from **Japanese** into **English** and at completion delivered to the client on **March 27, 2003**.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein are of my own knowledge and are true and that all statements made based on information or belief are believed to be true.

Language Innovations, LLC hereby agrees to keep the content of this translation confidential according to ethical and legal standards of the profession of Translation. Language Innovations, LLC agrees not to discuss, evaluate, distribute or reproduce any material included in or related to the translation of this document.

Date: March 27, 2003

Signature:
Mariela Diaz-Butler, Manager
Language Innovations, LLC

Subscribed and sworn before me this 27th day of March 20 03, at Washington, DC.

JAMES M. REED
My Commission Expires: June 30, 2007
Notary Public District of Columbia

Notary Public